

WESTERN WILDLAND URBAN
INTERFACE GRANT PROGRAM
Program Overview & Application Process



WUI GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Since 1999, the Council of Western State Foresters have awarded funding on a competitive basis to the western states and protectorates under the Western WUI Grant Program. Key program areas include: fuels reduction, restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems, homeowner action, and prevention & education.



The Western Wildland Fire Protection Committee

This committee oversees the Western WUI Grant Program, and consists of fire management professionals representing each member state of the Council of Western State Foresters, plus the Pacific Islands.

Member states are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Pacific Islands include: Territory of American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Republic of the Marshall Islands.



Overview of Grant Process

1. Applications are accepted locally for eligible projects.(May through mid August)
2. An Alaskan interagency grant screening committee scores and prioritizes applications to forward to the Western WUI Grant Committee.
3. Western WUI Grant Committee screens all applications and scores them based on program criteria, then recommends awards based on available funding in a report to the Council of Western State Foresters. (early Oct.)
4. The CWSF approves final funding allocations and notification is made to the members of tentative award. (November-early December)
5. Members notify individual applicants once funding is secure and available. (typically March/April)



The Grant Application

Each year, the application and guidance for the Western WVI Grant Program are announced, opening the grant period. This application is the only mechanism to convey all pertinent information about your project to the grant committee. Therefore, it is critical that applicants prepare the best possible application. Here are some things to consider when preparing your grant application:



- ✓ Follow directions, completing the application as outlined in the guidance provided and within the space constraints.
- ✓ Use clear and concise language to explain the project, including key timelines, process, scope of work, budget, partners, and future maintenance.
- ✓ Clearly demonstrate ability to implement the project, if funded.
- ✓ Explain how the project meets the goals and criteria for the grant funding and how to maintain it in the future.
- ✓ Identify partners, funding sources, and responsibilities as an indicator of ability to achieve the results.



BE COMPETITIVE!

Remember, the Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program is a competitive process!

Mathematical errors, using inappropriate match funding, or simply failing to adequately explain some facet of your project could mean the difference between a perfect score and something less.

In any given year, there will be 180-220 applicants, seeking 4-5x more funding than is available.

 Success depends upon a solid application!

TIPS FOR GREAT APPLICATIONS

1. Work with partners to design the project and prepare the grant application together.
2. Follow the application guidance that is provided with the application.
3. Read & re-read; ask others to review as well.
4. "Score" your application as if you were on the committee. Ask others to do the same.
5. Ask for help from your state fire grant coordinator if you have questions regarding the application or the selection process.



APPLICATION
SCORING & SCREENING
AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL



How are the applications screened?

Before the applications are scored by the Western WVI Grant Committee, they are screened for eligibility on the basis of two key criteria:

Is the 50-50 match requirement met?

Is the proposed project eligible within the guidelines of the grant program?

The answer must be "yes" to both of these questions for the application to be forward on to the scoring process.



How are the applications scored?

The committee currently uses a 11-point scoring process, allocated per the following criteria:

1. Is the project achievable? (2 point)
2. Is the project measurable? (2 point)
3. Is the project collaborative? (3 point)
4. Evaluation of planned maintenance. (2 points.)
5. Status of Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). (2 points)

TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS = 11



IMPORTANCE OF APPLICATION SCORES

All applications – regardless of individual state priorities – are considered for funding based on application score. That is, even a state's top priority can be excluded from funding if it doesn't receive a high score. In some cases, a priority #4 proposal could be funded over a higher one if it is scored higher by the Western WUI Grant Committee. For the past several years, there has not been enough funding to get through all of the "perfect" applications (score of 11). This means that any proposal that doesn't garner the full points during scoring has essentially no chance of being funded. This is why application preparation is the key to success in this process.



ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR PROJECTS



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Once all applications are screened & scored, the funding allocation begins. Each "state" competes during a succession of funding "rounds." For example, during round #1, all of the #1 priority applications from each state and/or pacific island are considered. All priority #1's with the highest possible score (11points) are funded. Then it goes to round #2, etc. until funds are allocated.



Each Compete in Every Round

Every state or island participates in every funding round. So, even if the top priority for a given state is not funded because it did not score a 11, if the #2 priority scored a 11, it will get funded in the next round. The rounds continue until all of the "11s" have been funded, then if there's still funding, the process is repeated from the top, and the "10s" are funded, etc.



Let's look at an example...

State	Score	Round1	Round 2
MT (1)	10	NO	
MT (2)	11		YES
HI (1)	11	YES	
HI (2)	11		YES
NV (1)	11	YES	
NV (2)	9		NO

In this example, Montana's #1 application was not funded because it did not receive a score of "11". However, in Round #2, the #2 application was funded. Likewise, Nevada was funded in round #1, but not in Round #2. Hawaii received funding in both because both applications scored a "11."



The Grant Committee continues through rounds of allocation until all available funding is awarded to projects. In addition, there are some other "rules" that must be considered. Specifically:

- ◊ No state can receive more than 15% of the total available funding.
- ◊ At least 25% of the available funding should support new projects.



CWSF APPROVAL/FUNDING

The Western WUI Committee forwards its funding recommendations to the Council of Western State Foresters for final approval. Once the allocations are approved and the funding is secured, individual applicants are notified of their award and enter into grant agreements with their respective state or island fire grant coordinator.



TIMELINE

Typically, grant applications are submitted in summer or early fall and are awarded the following spring or summer. The process takes approximately 5-6 months after the application deadline to make final funding decisions and notify grant applicants.



Thank you for your interest in the
Western Wildland Urban
Interface Grant Program.
Best of luck in preparing
your application

2010 WUI Grant Applications are due August 14, 2009

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